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Information

Selected Speeches and News Releases

November 30 - December 7, 1989

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U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Information

Joint Statement by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the Environmental Protection Agency, Dec. 4.

The Environmental Protection Agency today announced its preliminary determination to cancel certain registrations of the EBDC pesticides for most uses on food plus some industrial and homeowner uses.

The EBDCs are a group of fungicides used worldwide. In the United States, it is estimated that they are used to protect 55 different fruit and vegetable crops from destructive fungal diseases.

Earlier this year, EPA began an extensive market-basket survey to determine the amount of EBDC residues potentially present on certain fruits and vegetables. Survey results and EPA's final determination on EBDCs are expected in spring 1991.

EPA has scrutinized the short-term risks that consumers will face between now and the 1991 determination. These fall well within a negligible risk range. If at any time new information suggests otherwise, EPA will immediately take action to further reduce the use of EBDCs. Therefore, we are confident the American consumer can continue to eat fruits and vegetables without concern over the potential risks of EBDC pesticide residues.

While recent studies indicate that exposure to ETU, a common degradation (breakdown) product of the EBDC pesticides, may increase cancer risks, we believe the long-term (lifetime) risks from the EBDCs may be lower than current EPA estimates. The market-basket survey underway may show less exposure to consumers. Data from this study will be received next year and will be factored into EPA's final decision on the EBDC pesticides.

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News Releases

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Information

THIS WEEK'S HONEY-LOAN REPAYMENT LEVELS UNCHANGED

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30—Producers may repay their 1988 and 1989 honey price-support loans at the following levels, according to Keith D. Bjerke, executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation:

Weekly Honey-loan Repayment Levels, color and class, cents per pound

	1989-crop	1988-crop
Table		
White	40.0	40.0
Extra-light Amber	37.0	37.0
Light Amber	36.0	36.0
Amber	35.0	34.0
Nontable	33.0	33.0

The levels are unchanged from those announced April 20, 1989.

Producers who redeem their honey pledged as loan collateral by repaying their 1988 or 1989 honey-price support loans at these levels may not repledge the same honey as collateral for another loan.

Contacts: Jane K. Phillips (202) 447-7601 8:00 am-4:30 pm EST

John C. Ryan (202) 447-8207 4:30 pm-5:30 pm EST

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling

(SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-4.9) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Dec. 1, through midnight Thursday, Dec. 7.

Since the adjusted world price (AWP) is above the 1988 and 1989 crop base quality loan rates of 51.80 and 50.00 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rates for the 1988 and 1989 crops of upland cotton during this period are equal to the respective loan rates for the specific quality and location.

The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates. Because the AWP in effect is above the established loan rate, loan deficiency payments are not available for 1989-crop upland cotton sold during this period.

Based on data for the week ending Nov. 30, the AWP for upland cotton and the coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price		
Northern Europe Price		80.06
Adjustments:		
Average U.S. spot market location	12.48	
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	2.20	
Average U.S. location	0.39	
Sum of Adjustments		-15.07
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE		64.99 cents/lb.
Coarse Count Adjustment		
Northern Europe Price		80.06
Northern Europe Coarse Count Price		-75.07
		4.99
Adjustment to SLM 1-inch cotton		-4.75
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT		0.24 cents/lb.

The next AWP and coarse count adjustment announcement will be made on Dec. 7.

Charles Cunningham (202) 447-7954

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PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR USSR AND UNKNOWN

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture the following activity:

—Export sales of 1,400,000 metric tons of corn for delivery to the USSR during the 1989-90 marketing year and under the seventh year of the Long Term Grain Supply Agreement signed Aug. 25, 1983 and extended Nov. 28, 1988;

—Export sales of 150,000 tons of soybean meal for delivery to the USSR during 1989-90 and under the seventh year of the LTA;

—Cancellations of 158,496 tons of corn for delivery to unknown destinations during 1989-90; and

—Purchases from foreign sellers of 100,000 tons of corn for delivery to unknown destinations during 1989-90. A purchase from a foreign seller is a transaction in which a U. S. exporter contracts to buy U. S. produced commodities from a foreign firm.

The marketing year for corn began Sept. 1 and for soybean meal began Oct. 1. Sales of corn to the USSR for delivery during the seventh year of the agreement (which began Oct. 1, 1989 and ends Sept. 30, 1990) total 9,509,500 tons. Sales of soybeans total 160,700 tons and soybean meal total 605,000 tons. In addition, sales of barley total 7,100 tons.

USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day, to one destination by 3:00 p.m. eastern time on the next business day following the sale. Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

Thomas B. McDonald (202) 447-3273

#

USDA RELEASES PRELIMINARY QUALITY DATA ON 1989 WHITE, HRS AND DURUM WHEATS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service today released preliminary reports showing varying trends in the quality of U.S. white, hard red spring and Durum wheat.

The reports are based on FGIS' annual summary of randomly selected samples of all official inspections performed on new-crop white, hard red spring and Durum wheat during the first four weeks following the start of local harvests throughout the country. The average quality of these selected samples is indicative of the quality of all three types of wheats inspected during the period. The preliminary reports released today summarize results for the 1989 crop and are based on 3,042 white wheat samples, 2,444 hard red spring samples, and 1,684 Durum samples.

Specific findings of the reports include:

—U.S. No. 1 grade was assigned to 14 percent more randomly selected samples of officially inspected 1989 hard red spring wheat than in the 1988.

—U.S. No. 1 grade was assigned to about the same percentage of randomly selected samples of Durum wheat in 1988 and 1989.

—Sixteen percent less randomly selected samples of white wheat were assigned the top grade in 1989 compared to 1988.

W. Kirk Miller, FGIS administrator, said the preliminary reports are an advance version of final material that will appear in the FGIS 1989 New Crop Quality Report, scheduled for publication next spring. Advance reports are furnished to assist those who need the information on a more timely basis, Miller said.

The three reports released today complete the preliminary data for the five wheat classes for the 1989 growing season.

For a copy of the preliminary reports, or the final 1989 New Crop Wheat Quality Report when it becomes available, contact Allen Atwood, FGIS, RMD, Room 0632-S, P.O. Box 96454, Washington, D.C. 20090-6454; telecopier (202) 447-4628.

Allen Atwood (202) 475-3367

#

SOYBEAN MEAL DONATION ANNOUNCED

WARSAW, Dec. 1—The United States will donate $20 million in soybean meal to Poland in the next several months, Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter announced today. The announcement was made during a U.S. Presidential Economic Delegation to Poland which Yeutter headed this week.

"Yesterday, during meetings with officials of the Polish Government they indicated that high-protein meal was one of their greatest needs that had not been met by any food aid provided to them," Yeutter said. "This donation of soybean meal," he said, "will help meet the livestock feed needs of Polish farmers during the coming year."

The soybean meal will be donated under the Food for Progress Program which is intended to support development of free enterprise elements in the agricultural economies of recipient countries. In view of the changes taking place in the Polish economy and the importance of the Polish agricultural sector to this transition, Yeutter said, this action is warranted.

With this new announced donation, U.S. food assistance will increase the President's previously announced plans for food aid.

The soybean meal will be purchased on behalf of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corp. on an open tender basis by USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service's Kansas City commodity office.

Kelly Shipp (Warsaw) 306-306

Sally Michael (202) 447-4623

#

CCC INTEREST RATE FOR DECEMBER LOWERED TO 7-7/8 PERCENT

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1—Commodity loans disbursed in December by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation will carry an 7-7/8 percent interest rate, according to Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of the CCC.

The 7-7/8 percent rate is down from November's 8-1/8 percent and reflects the interest rate charged CCC by the U.S. Treasury in December.

Robert Feist (202) 447-6789

#

USDA ANNOUNCES 1990 EXTRA-LONG-STAPLE COTTON PROGRAM PROVISIONS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture John Campbell today announced a 5-percent acreage reduction for the 1990 extralong-staple (ELS) cotton program.

The following provisions apply:

—the established target price will be 98.1 cents per pound;

—the loan level will be 81.77 cents per pound;

—recourse loans for ELS seed cotton will be made available;

—the signup period will be Jan. 16 to April 13, 1990, the same as for wheat, rice, feed grains and upland cotton; and

—all counties designated as suitable for growing ELS cotton during the 1989 marketing year are redesignated for the 1990 marketing year. Additional counties may be designated prior to the final date for enrolling in the ELS cotton program.

The following previously announced provisions remain unchanged:

—ELS cotton will not be subject to limited cross compliance provisions;

—offsetting compliance will not apply;

—grazing of acreage conservation reserve (ACR) land will be permitted, except during a five-consecutive-month period between April 1 and Oct. 31, 1990, as established by the state Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committees;

—haying of ACR in the same period will not be permitted unless the state ASC Committee determines that haying will not have an adverse economic effect in that state; and

—in the event of a natural disaster, haying and grazing of ACR may be permitted during the prohibited five-month period in counties adversely affected by disaster conditions.

Micronaire discounts, loan levels for individual qualities and other details of the 1990 ELS cotton program will be announced later.

Bruce Merkle (202) 447-6787

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CHEN NAMED FmHA ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1—Under Secretary of Agriculture Roland R. Vautour today announced the appointment of David T. Chen as associate administrator for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers Home Administration.

Chen has been FmHA's Oregon state director since November 1985, directing the activities of nearly 150 employees located in 19 county and three district offices, plus the state headquarters in Portland.

As FmHA's associate administrator, Chen will assist the administrator in managing one of the federal government's chief agriculture and rural development agencies, with more than 12,000 employees nationwide and a loan portfolio exceeding $60 billion.

Before joining FmHA, Chen was finance director for Beaverton, Ore., since 1977. He formerly served as county treasurer for Newcastle County, Delaware, and was finance director for Kenai, Alaska. He served in similar posts in Kodiak, Alaska, and in the state of Washington.

Chen, 54, was born in Nanking, China. He holds an M.A. degree from the University of Oregon, and degrees in mathematics from the University of Washington, and public administration from the National Chung Hsin University, Taipei.

Chen, who speaks, reads and writes fluent Chinese, was instrumental in bringing a Taiwanese trade mission to Oregon that resulted in a $25 million sale of Oregon wheat.

He is council president for Beaverton, chairman of the board of directors for the Beaverton Sister Cities Foundation, Inc., and a member of the board of directors for the Oregon Chapter of the American Red Cross, Tualatin Valley Mental Health Center and the American Heritage Association.

Chen and his wife, Debbie, have three children. He became a naturalized citizen in 1972.

Joe O'Neill (202) 447-6903

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PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR USSR

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture the following activity:

—Export sales of 800,000 metric tons of corn for delivery to the USSR during the 1989-90 marketing year and under the seventh year of the Long Term Grain Supply Agreement signed Aug. 25, 1983 and extended Nov. 28, 1988; and

—Export sales of 100,000 tons of soybean meal for delivery to the USSR during 1989-90 and under the seventh year of the LTA.

The marketing year for corn began Sept. 1 and for soybean meal began Oct. 1. Sales of corn to the USSR for delivery during the seventh year of the agreement (which began Oct. 1, 1989 and ends Sept. 30, 1990) total 10,309,500 tons. Sales of soybeans total 160,700 tons and soybean meal total 705,000 tons. In addition, sales of barley total 7,100 tons.

USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day, to one destination by 3:00 PM eastern time on the next business day following the sale. Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

Thomas B. McDonald (202) 447-3273

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USDA'S EXTENSION SERVICE PLANS PROGRAM WITH POLAND

WARSAW, Dec. 2—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Extension Service will initiate an outreach program with Poland in February, Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter announced today. The announcement was made at the conclusion of a U.S. Presidential Economic Delegation to Poland which Yeutter headed this week.

In February, Yeutter said, the Extension Service will send a team of five experts to Poland to explore ways to strengthen agricultural educational and advisory services throughout the country.

The team will include U.S. Extension experts who have international experience. They will spend about a month in Poland assessing the situation and providing recommendations.

Yeutter said thc team will have expertise in organization and management of outreach systems, program development and evaluation, training, information and communications, and administrative structures and procedures.

"With their U.S. Cooperative Extension Service backgrounds," he said, "team members should be in an excellent position to improve delivery of agricultural education and information throughout Poland."

Kelly Shipp (202) 447-4623

#

POLAND PARICIPATION INCREASED IN COCHRAN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

WARSAW, Dec. 2—Twenty Polish agriculturalists will receive agricultural and agribusiness training in the United States next year, Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter announced today. The announcement was made at the conclusion of a U.S. Presidential Economic Delegation to Poland which Yeutter headed this week.

The 20 will join the Cochran Middle Income Country Fellowship Program, which is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of International Cooperation and Development, Yeutter said. More than $90,000 had been set aside through the Cochran Program to train Poles in U.S. agricultural systems. Additional options are being explored to expand the program even further, he noted.

Yeutter said, "We look forward not only to increasing trade opportunities for U.S. commodities in Poland through this program, but also to increasing goodwill between the people of both countries."

Poland began participation in the fellowship program in April with 39 participants receiving agriculture and agribusiness training in the United States. Of 16 countries participating in the program in 1989, Poland had the largest group. Participants receive training at U.S. universities and with private agricultural organizations and businesses.

The Cochran Program, named for Senator Thad Cochran, began in 1984. It provides agricultural training in the United States for senior and midlevel specialists and administrators. Knowledge gained from U.S. experts can help improve economic stability in participants' home countries, Yeutter said, which fosters U.S. market development and increases opportunities for international trade of U.S. commodities.

Sales of breeding stock and animals, grains, seeds, and high-value products have resulted from the program in the past, he said.

Kelly Shipp (202) 447-4623

#

U.S. INDUSTRY BOUGHT 380 MILLION LBS. BURLEY TOBACCO DURING 1988 MARKETING SEASON

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4—The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today that U.S. cigarette manufacturers purchased 380.1 million pounds of farm sales weight burley tobacco during the Oct. 1, 1988 - Sept. 30 marketing season (excluding pre-1985 loan stocks).

The manufacturers' purchase intentions for the 1988 crop were 364.5 million pounds. Actual purchases were 104.3 percent of intended purchases.

The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 requires major domestic manufacturers to purchase at least 90 percent of their intended purchases to avoid the assessment of a penalty. However, because 1988 crop marketings were 17.4 percent below the 1988 effective quota, manufacturers' intended purchases were reduced by 17.4 percent. Any manufacturer who failed to purchase 90 percent of this revised quantity is subject to a penalty equal to twice the no-net-cost tobacco program assessment rate (2.0 cents per pound) for each pound of the deficiency in purchases.

John C. Ryan (202) 447-6787.

#

NATIONAL RESOURCES INVENTORY RELEASED BY USDA'S SOIL CONSERVATON SERVICE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service today released a comprehensive study of the condition and trends of the nation's soil, water, and related resources—the latest National Resources Inventory (NRI).

"The NRI has become one of our most important sources of information for soil and water conservation activities," said SCS Chief Wilson Scaling. "In this latest NRI, we've updated information from the

1982 NRI and made comparisons possible between the two.''

The NRI provides data on land cover and use, erosion by water and wind, prime farmland, cropland use, irrigation, conservation tillage, and conservation treatment needs at national and state levels on nonfederal rural land. It does not reflect the work underway as part of the conservation provisions of the 1985 Farm Bill, where an estimated 140 million acres of highly erodible land will have conservation plans implemented between 1990 and Dec. 31, 1994.

SCS released an initial 40-page national summary today. It will publish complete findings in July 1990.

SCS field personnel collected the data at 300,000 sample points nationwide during the growing season in 1987.

Highlights of the NRI released today include:

—Sheet and rill erosion on cropland decreased by a half ton per acre nationwide between 1982 and 1987, dropping from 4.3 tons to 3.8 tons per acre per year. Wind erosion on cropland increased 0.1 ton per acre, to 3.3 tons per acre per year.

—On cropland, sheet and rill erosion nationwide totals 1.6 billion tons per year and wind erosion nearly 1.4 billion tons per year.

—Rural nonfederal land now totals 1.4 billion acres. Of this, 422.8 million acres are cropland, 401.7 million acres are rangeland, 394.4 million acres are forestland, and 59.9 million acres are in minor land uses.

—From 1982 to 1987, 4 million acres of rural nonfederal land were converted to urban and transportation uses.

—Cropland increased 1.4 million acres from 1982 to 1987, from 421.4 million acres to 422.8 million acres. Pastureland decreased 2.3 million acres and rangeland decreased 6 million acres.

—For the first time, conservation tillage practices were included in the NRI. Conservation tillage was practiced on 110 million acres of cropland.

—Prime farmland totals 339 million acres—down 1.4 million acres from 1982.

Diana Morse (202) 447-4772

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PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR USSR AND IRAQ

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture the following activity:

—Export sales of 551,600 metric tons of corn for delivery to the USSR during the 1989-90 marketing year and under the seventh year of the Long Term Grain Supply Agreement signed Aug. 25, 1983 and extended Nov. 28, 1988. Of this quantity, 450,000 tons are new export sales and 101,600 tons are changes in destination from unknown to the USSR;

—Export sales of 215,000 tons of wheat (135,000 tons of hard red spring and 80,000 tons of hard red winter) for delivery to the USSR during 1989-90 and under the seventh year of the LTA; and

—Export sales of 110,000 tons of hard red winter wheat for delivery to Iraq during 1989-90.

The marketing year for wheat began June 1 and for corn began Sept. 1.

Sales of wheat and corn to the USSR for delivery during the seventh year of the agreement (which began Oct. 1, 1989 and ends Sept. 30, 1990) total 11,076,100 tons, of which wheat is 215,000 tons and corn is 10,861,100 tons. Sales of soybeans total 160,700 tons and soybean meal total 705,000 tons. In addition, sales of barley total 7,100 tons.

USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day, to one destination by 3:00 PM eastern time on the next business day following the sale. Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

Thomas B. McDonald (202) 447-3273

#

CHINA ELIGIBLE FOR WHEAT UNDER EEP

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture John B. Campbell today announced on opportunity for sales of an additional 1 million metric tons of U.S. wheat to China under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Export Enhancement Program.

Today's 1-million-metric-ton allocation, added to the 10,000 metric tons remaining under previous allocations, brings the amount of wheat currently available to China under EEP to 1,010,000 metric tons.

Sales of wheat will be made to buyers in China at competitive world prices. The export sales will be made through normal commercial channels with the assistance of commodities from the inventory of the Commodity Credit Corp. The subsidy will enable U.S. exporters to compete at commercial prices in the Chinese market.

This allocation will be valid for a one-year period as provided for in the invitation for offers. Details of the program, including an invitation for offers from exporters, will be issued in the near future.

For more information telephone George Galasso, (202) 382-9274, or Larry McElvain, (202) 447-3224. For a tape-recorded message announcing the issuance of invitations under EEP call the CCC Operations Hotline, (202) 447-2042.

Sally Klusaritz (202) 447-3448

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture John B. Campbell today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

—long grain whole kernels, 9.76 cents per pound;
—medium grain whole kernels, 9.06 cents per pound;
—short grain whole kernels, 8.94 cents per pound;
—broken kernels, 4.88 cents per pound.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, rough rice world prices are estimated to be:

—long grain, $6.03 per hundredweight;
—medium grain, $5.64 per hundredweight;
—short grain, $5.43 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 3 p.m. EST. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Dec. 12, at 3 p.m. EST, although prices may be announced sooner if warranted.

Gene Rosera (202) 447-7923

#

1989 WHEAT, BARLEY PRODUCERS TO RECEIVE PAYMENTS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6—Approximately $175 million in deficiency payments, including $40 million in 0/92 payments, will be made to eligible producers of 1989 crop wheat, an official of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation announced today. Barley producers will receive about $7 million in 0/92 payments.

Keith Bjerke, CCC executive vice president, said neither deficiency nor 0/92 payments are due 1989 crop oat producers.

Bjerke said the payments to wheat and barley producers will be made in cash through local offices of the USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Deficiency payments are made under the 1989 wheat, barley and oats program when the national weighted average market prices received by producers during the first five months of the marketing year (June through October) are below established "target" price levels.

Deficiency payment rates are based upon the difference between the target price for the commodity and the higher of the five-month average market price or the basic loan rate.

Eligible wheat and barley producers will receive a payment in accordance with the statutory formulas as shown in the following table:

Calculation of 5-Month Deficiency Payment Rates

	Wheat	Barley	Oats
	- - - - - - *$bu.* - - - - - -		
A. Target Price	4.10	2.43	1.50
B. Basic Loan Rate	2.57	1.68	1.06
C. 5-Month Market Price	3.78	2.47	1.51
D. 5-Month Deficiency Payment Rate (A-C)	0.32	0.00	0.00
E. Advance Payment Rate	0.25	0.115	0.00
F. Net 5-Month Deficiency Payment Rate (D-E)	0.07	-0.115	0.00

Producers who enrolled in the wheat and barley 0/92 programs were guaranteed a minimum payment rate of $0.50 per bushel for wheat and

$0.23 for barley. Eligible producers will receive this guaranteed rate less any advance in 0/92 payments they have already received.

Bruce Merkle (202) 447-6787

#

USDA FINES FOR SMUGGLING BEGIN JAN. 1 IN HAWAII, PUERTO RICO, VIRGIN ISLANDS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7—Beginning Jan. 1, travelers entering the U.S. mainland from Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands will be subject to the same civil penalties for smuggling agricultural contraband as those from foreign countries.

"Travelers leaving Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands should know that if they do not declare all agricultural items, they can be fined $25," said Larry B. Slagle, acting administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. "If they make an outright attempt to conceal these articles, they can be fined $50," he said.

Mangoes, avocadoes and papayas are among the most frequently smuggled agricultural products from Hawaii, according to Slagle. In Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, mangoes, soursops and sugarcane often are found by inspectors.

"A single mango can harbor dangerous pests like the Mediterranean fruit fly, which can cause widespread outbreaks like the one we're battling now in California," Slagle said. "If Medfly were to become established in the United States, it could cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars in increased control costs and higher food prices."

Slagle said APHIS inspectors have collected over $3 million in civil penalties since the nationwide program began in March 1984. He said the program has been an effective tool in educating travelers to the threat to American agriculture posed by prohibited meat, produce and other articles.

"In the days before our fines, people tended to take agricultural quarantine regulations lightly. Some travelers thought little of sneaking an orange or two past inspectors. If smugglers were caught, inspectors merely confiscated the item." Now, says Slagle, travelers are much more aware of the financial risk they run by such actions.

Travelers may contest the fines, but those who do can be fined up to $1,000 if they lose the case. No fines are imposed for prohibited products

if they are declared during baggage inspection, but all illegal items are confiscated with no compensation.

Travelers who break agricultural quarantine laws also suffer delays and embarrassment during baggage inspection when long lines are held up even more for fines to be processed. For more information on USDA quarantine regulations, write to: Traveler's Tips, USDA, APHIS, Room G-110 Federal Building, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Anita Brown (301) 436-5931

#

USDA SETTLES 13 ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH COMPLIANCE CASES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7—The U.S. Department of Agriculture settled 13 cases during September to enforce federal animal and plant health laws and regulations.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is responsible for a variety of programs to prevent, control or eradicate pests and diseases of plants and animals. In enforcing the regulations to accomplish this mission, legal action is generally taken against violators only after repeated efforts to secure compliance are unsuccessful, according to James W. Glosser, administrator of APHIS.

The latest monthly figures show that individuals and businesses who violated the regulations were fined a total of $22,100 and two veterinarians had their federal accreditation suspended. Also, port inspectors collected $47,980 in civil penalties from 1,651 international travelers caught smuggling potentially hazardous agricultural products into the country and $10,350 from 64 businesses or shipping companies that mishandled or improperly disposed of regulated garbage.

In addition, four other charges were filed during September against persons or businesses accused of violating agency regulations. Two involved the illegal interstate movement of livestock and two involved the importation of prohibited or restricted fruits, vegetables and cut flowers.

Most enforcement is carried out under administrative procedures in lieu of criminal trials. In many civil cases, accused parties use a provision of administrative law that allows them to accept a penalty without a hearing and, in some cases, without admitting or denying the charges. Other civil cases are resolved by a federal administrative law judge who hears

testimony and reviews briefs by the parties before handing down a decision. Failure to respond to USDA charges constitutes admission of guilt, and penalties are assessed by an administrative law judge.

The following actions, by subject, were settled in September:

IMPORT/EXPORT REGULATIONS—Import restrictions cover most farm animals and many plant materials and are aimed at preventing the introduction of serious foreign animal or plant diseases and pests that do not exist in this country. USDA certifies export shipments to assure that only healthy animals and plant materials reach foreign markets.

—Crowley Carribean Transport of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., was assessed a $4,500 civil penalty by an administrative law judge following charges that the company failed to comply with federal fruit and vegetable import regulations. The company has 30 days from service of the decision to appeal it to the judicial officer. The administrative law judge imposed the penalty after the company failed to answer, within the allotted time, a formal complaint that on five occasions between March 16 and July 7, 1988, it imported a variety of fruits and vegetables from Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Peru without having the produce undergo and pass agricultural inspection as required.

—American Airlines, Inc., headquartered at Dallas/Fort Worth Airport in Texas, was assessed a $2,000 civil penalty to resolve USDA charges that the company violated federal import regulations by releasing several shipments of cut flowers before they had undergone required treatment against plant pests. American has 30 days from service of the decision to appeal it to the judicial officer. The administrative law judge imposed the penalty after American failed to answer, within the allotted time, a formal complaint alleging that on Sept. 23, 1987, and on Feb. 9, 1988, the airline released several boxes of untreated cut flowers imported from Mexico into Texas even though a USDA inspector had mandated the treatment as a condition of entry.

—Pedro Esquivel Palacios of El Paso, Texas, agreed to pay a $2,000 civil penalty without admitting or denying USDA allegations that he failed to comply with federal regulations governing the importation of livestock. USDA alleged that on July 3, 1988, Palacios moved a bull calf from Mexico into the United States, bypassing the designated port of entry and quarantine. Also, he allegedly failed to provide certain official records of the animal's health status, neglected to have the bull inspected and declined to present import declaration forms.

GARBAGE HANDLING REGULATIONS—To prevent the spread of dangerous animal and plant diseases or pests, all food waste or refuse accumulated on board international aircraft or ocean vessels must be stored in tight, leak-proof, covered receptacles until it can be properly disposed of at a facility approved by the USDA.

—Pan American World Airways, with a business address at JFK International Airport in Jamaica, N.Y., was assessed a $5,500 civil penalty by an administrative law judge after it failed to respond to a formal complaint alleging that it violated federal regulations for handling foreignorigin garbage. Pan American officials have 30 days from service of the decision to appeal it to the judicial officer. USDA alleged that on 11 occasions between Jan. 3, 1987, and Sept. 14, 1988, the company mishandled garbage from commercial flights arriving at JFK International Airport. After being unloaded, the garbage should have been put into tight, leak-proof, covered receptacles and should have been transferred into an approved facility for incineration or grinding under the direction of a USDA inspector.

—Marriott In Flight Services, with a business address in Jamaica, N.Y., has agreed to pay a $1,125 civil penalty without admitting or denying USDA charges that it failed to comply with federal regulations for handling foreign-origin garbage. USDA alleged that on three separate occasions between April 4, 1987, and March 3, 1988, Marriott mishandled garbage from commercial flights arriving in Jamaica, N.Y., and Burlingame, Calif. After being unloaded, the garbage should have been put into tight, leak-proof, covered containers and transferred to an approved facility for incineration, sterilization or grinding into an approved sewage system.

—Host International, Inc., doing business at Sea-Tac International Airport, Seattle, Wash., agreed to pay a $375 civil penalty without admitting or denying USDA allegations that it failed to comply with federal regulations for handling foreign-origin garbage. USDA alleged that on Feb. 22, the company removed foreign-origin garbage from a Scandinavian flight arriving in Seattle, Wash., without securing the waste in tight, leak-proof, covered receptacles as required.

INTERSTATE MOVEMENT OF LIVESTOCK—Certain livestock moving across state lines must be identified and accompanied by health certificates and permits, depending on the species, age, sex, health status and origin of the animals. A number of livestock diseases, such as brucellosis and tuberculosis, are being eradicated under cooperative state-

federal programs; however, these diseases could spread rapidly if dealers and producers fail to follow shipping rules.

—Speedway Transportation, Inc., of Holdrege, Neb., agreed to pay a $600 civil penalty without admitting or denying USDA allegations that it violated federal cattle shipping regulations. USDA alleged that on July 6, 1985, Speedway Transportation moved 44 cattle interstate from various areas in Texas to Omaha, Neb., without properly identifying the animals with USDA approved backtags as required.

Also, Waldrup Livestock Auction of Mineral Wells, Texas, was assessed a $500 civil penalty for its involvement in the shipment. An administrative law judge imposed the penalty after the company failed to respond to a formal complaint charging that it moved at least 10 cattle interstate from Weatherford, Texas, to Omaha, Neb., without the required backtags.

—Bob Smith of West Plains, Mo., agreed to pay a $500 civil penalty without admitting or denying USDA allegations that he violated federal cattle shipping regulations. USDA alleged that on Sept. 4, 1988, Smith moved two brucellosis reactor cows interstate other than directly to slaughter. Also, he allegedly allowed the cattle to be shipped from West Plains, Mo., to East St. Louis, Ill., without the required shipping certificate and permit.

—Dan Buchanan of Harleton, Texas, and Ronnie Buchanan of Hallsville, Texas, each agreed to pay a $3,000 civil penalty without admitting or denying USDA allegations that they violated federal cattle shipping regulations. USDA alleged that on three occasions between Sept. 23, 1987, and Nov. 5, 1987, the Buchanans moved a total of 35 test-eligible cattle interstate from Bossier City, La., to New Summerville, Texas or to Longview, Texas, without both the required entry permit and certificate stating the results of official brucellosis tests.

—David W. White of Monterey, La., entered into a pretrial diversion agreement to be placed on two-years supervised probation and to pay $1,000 in restitution to USDA without admitting or denying that he violated federal cattle shipping regulations. USDA alleged that on Jan. 19, 1987, White participated in a scheme to prevent test-eligible cattle from being traced back to their herd of origin if they reacted positively to the brucellosis test. According to the pretrial diversion agreement with the U.S. Attorney's office at Shreveport, La., prosecution against White is deferred so long as he pays the monetary sanction and refrains from

any future violations of federal, state or local laws during his probation, which began August 1.

—Cal Henifin of Zillah, Wash., was fined $50,000 and sentenced to one year in prison after he pleaded guilty to a two-count charge of unlawful interstate transportation of livestock. All but $1,000 of the fine was suspended. Also, the prison sentence was suspended to three years supervised probation so long as Henifin refrains from any future violations of federal, state or local laws. USDA charged that on July 26 and Aug. 5, 1986, Henifin purposely removed backtags from at least 20 cattle he purchased in Oregon to conceal the true origin of the cattle. Further, he misrepresented the source of the cattle when he sold them at a local livestock market to circumvent identification, testing, certificate and health requirements.

VETERINARY ACCREDITATION—USDA accredits practicing veterinarians to perform official services for USDA. To become accredited, veterinarians must pass a special examination and adhere to a strict code of ethics, regulations and procedures. Suspension or revocation of accreditation does not affect a veterinarian's state license to practice veterinary medicine.

—Elizabeth R. Doyel of Stillwater, Okla., agreed to have her federal accreditation suspended for 18 months from June 8, 1988, to Dec. 8, 1989, to settle USDA allegations that she violated accreditation standards. USDA charged that on July 25, 1987, Doyle submitted a fraudulent blood sample to an approved state-federal laboratory for brucellosis testing. Also, on Sept. 22, 1987, she allegedly signed brucellosis vaccination records for six cattle when in fact, she had not vaccinated any of the animals and they had no identification markings to indicate they had been previously vaccinated.

—Donald S. Fletcher of Stephenville, Texas, agreed to have his federal accreditation suspended for one year effective July 24, to settle charges that he violated standards of the brucellosis eradication program. Specifically, USDA alleged that Fletcher did not ascertain the true origin and identity of a large number of out-of-state cattle which he brucellosistested at a local Texas livestock auction. The cattle were resold as Texas cattle. Also, he failed to submit the blood specimens he collected for the brucellosis testing to an approved laboratory as required. Allegedly, the veterinary lab area at the market was not secure and tubes of blood were found in trash cans, on tables and in the lab's refrigerator.

Further, Fletcher allegedly failed to keep official documents, equipment and brucellosis test kits in a secure place to prevent their misuse or theft.

Questa Glenn (301) 436-6464

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THIS WEEK'S HONEY-LOAN REPAYMENT LEVELS UNCHANGED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7—Producers may repay their 1988 and 1989 honey price-support loans at the following levels, according to Keith D. Bjerke, executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation:

Weekly Honey-loan Repayment Levels, color and class, cents per pound

	1989-crop	1988-crop
Table		
White	40.0	40.0
Extra-light Amber	37.0	37.0
Light Amber	36.0	36.0
Amber	35.0	34.0
Nontable	33.0	33.0

The levels are unchanged from those announced April 20, 1989.

Producers who redeem their honey pledged as loan collateral by repaying xcd4/d02d4d their 1988 or 1989 honey-price support loans at these levels may not repledge the same honey as collateral for another loan.

Jane K. Phillips (202) 447-7601 8:00 am-4:30 pm EST

John C. Ryan (202) 447-8207 4:30 pm-5:30 pm EST

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U.S. TOBACCO INDUSTRY TO BUY 491.5 MILLION POUNDS OF 1990 FLUE-CURED TOBACCO

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7—The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today that U.S. cigarette manufacturers intend to purchase 491.5 million pounds of flue-cured tobacco, farm sales weight, from the 1990 crop.

The 1990 flue-cured tobacco quota will be based upon the total of the intended purchases, the average of flue-cured tobacco exports during the preceding three years (366.1 million pounds) and the quantity of tobacco needed to attain reserve stock levels.

The secretary of agriculture may increase or decrease this total by three percent. The quota will be announced by Dec. 15.

The manufacturers' purchase intentions for the 1989 crop of flue-cured tobacco were 543.6 million pounds.

Bruce Merkle (202) 447-6787.

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USDA EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD ON PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH PAPAYA GRADING STANDARDS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will extend to Jan. 10 the comment period on its proposal to establish voluntary, i.e., industry-requested, grading standards for fresh papayas.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the extension was based on an industry request. The comment period was to have ended Dec. 11, as stated in the Oct. 11 Federal Register.

An announcement of the extended comment period is scheduled to appear in tomorrow's Federal Register. Written comments, postmarked or courierdated no later than Jan. 10, may be sent to the Standardization Section, Fresh Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, Rm. 2056-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

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YEUTTER NAMES TWO CATTLEMEN TO BEEF PROMOTION BOARD

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today announced appointments to fill vacancies left by the resignations of two members of the national Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board.

W. Thomas Beard III, Alpine, Texas, will complete the term of John S. Cargile, San Angelo, Texas; and James M. Webb, Paradise Valley, Ariz., will complete the term of Donald Butler, Tucson, Ariz. Both will serve until Nov. 30, 1991.

The appointees were selected from cattle producers nominated by Texas and Arizona organizations representing beef and dairy interests.

Established under the Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985, the board has implemented a national program designed to improve the beef industry's position in the marketplace. The program, approved for continuation in a May 1988 referendum, is funded by a mandatory $1-per-head assessment on all cattle marketed in the United States. The assessments also apply to imported cattle and beef as well as imported beef products. Assessments began Oct. 1, 1986.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

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Media Advisory:

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Information

FGIS ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service has released its 1989 Annual Report to Congress. The report summarizes the agency's key programs, activities, and accomplishments of fiscal 1989.

As mandated by law, FGIS delivers the report to the chairmen of the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry on Dec. 1 each year.

For more information and copies of the report, contact Dana Blatt, (202) 382-0378.

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MEDIA ADVISORY

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1—U.S. and Soviet officials have scheduled grain trade talks for Dec. 5-6 in Moscow.

The Dec. 5 meeting will be another session of the regular, semi-annual consultations called for under the U.S.-Soviet long-term grain agreement. The consultations will include a review of the worldwide, U.S. and Soviet grain situations, and the status of purchases and shipments under the agreement. The U.S. delegation will be led by Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder and the Soviet delegation by Deputy Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Yuri Chumakov.

On Dec. 6, officials will begin discussing a potential new long-term grain agreement. The current agreement expires Dec. 31, 1990. The U.S. delegation will be led by Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Jules Katz; Chumakov will lead the Soviet delegation.

Sally Michael (202) 447-4623.

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